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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CHARACTERIZING FIBER CRIMPS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus and method are described for measuring and controlling the crimp characteristics of a moving crimped tow. A light source illuminates a section of the moving crimped tow and at least one camera acquires a video image of the tow. The acquired image is digitized and a processor decomposes the interlaced image into two non-interlaced field images. Crimp characteristics are derived based on the decomposed images.

14 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets